After lunch (2-30 p.m.)

RESOLUTION *re* RECONSIDERATION OF THE GOVERNMENT ORDER ON THE REPORT OF THE METTUR PROJECT DEPUTATION.

* Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—" Sir, I move—

"*This Council recommends to the Government that G.O. No.* 2616 *I., dated* 19*th October* 1928, *on the report of the Mettur Project Deputation be reconsidered so far as the following matters are concerned and that—*

(1) *immediate orders be passed for arranging the supply of water for irrigation purposes in Coimbatore district and if not impossible in the districts of Salem and Trichinopoly as recommended by the deputation* ;

(2) *no more money be spent on buildings except in cases where it is absolutely necessary in view of the fact that the cost of the buildings is already very high and that they are all of a temporary nature* ;

(3) *no more money be spent on the road from Erode to Mettur in view of the new railroad being put up from Salem to Mettur* ;

(4) *no filtered water be used for construction purposes and that no more money be spent for this purpose either by way of buildings or otherwise* ;

(5) *all possible attempts be made to cut down the establishment charges at the top and no new offices be created thereafter* ;

(6) *no one employed in the firms supplying machinery or material to the Government be hereafter employed in the Government service* ;

(7) *house-rent be collected from all officers serving in connexion with the project for Government buildings used by them for residence* ;

(8) *the amenities of workmen suggested by the deputation be provided for at once and that arrangements be made to close all arrack and toddy shops at or near Mettur and that necessary establishments be provided to prevent illicit distillation* ;

(9) *the question of fixing water-rates in the Tanjore district and coming to an early understanding with the Tanjore ryots be taken up at once to avoid all possible difficulties in the future* ;

(10) *immediate steps be taken to set up an Advisory Committee of the Council to make occasional inspections and suggestions regarding desirable changes in the working of the scheme* ;

(11) *the question of using cement for the whole dam or for only portions of it be re-opened and carefully considered over again, and*

(12) *if the Government are not prepared to accept the suggestions of the report to a large extent, a committee of experts chiefly composed of retired Indian Public Works Department officers be appointed to go into all the questions raised in the report and in the resolution.*'

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"This, Sir, is a question which has been dealt with on the floor of this House several times and it has been unfortunately the case that the opinions of the members of this House have not been cared for by the Government. As one of the small mercies, the Government appointed a committee to go into all the matters connected with this project and to make a report; and hopes were entertained that when that committee, a responsible committee composed of members from all parties and from all sides of this House, made its report, it would be carefully considered by the Government. But, unfortunately, Sir, we see from the Government Order that practically every recommendation of this deputation has been thrown to the winds, and only one small thing namely, reducing the rent from 6 per cent to 4 per cent, has been granted. I, representing the ryots of Coimbatore, am no doubt obliged to the Government at least for this small mercy. I am afraid, Sir, that members of this Council have not had much time to go through the papers carefully, but, in fact, my resolution gives practically all the recommendations made by the deputation. The first one and the most important thing, is the question of giving a small supply of water to the districts of Coimbatore, Salem and Trichinopoly. These three districts are entitled to the first claim, if for no other reasons, at least on account of the reason that they possess the riparian right, as the river flows through all the three districts. But, so far as Coimbatore and Salem are concerned, their claims are supreme. The river divides the two districts as a boundary, but what is more, a very large extent of cultivated and uncultivated lands in these districts have been taken away on account of this project and a large portion of the lands are to be submerged. People have been driven out of several villages in both these districts and they are wandering practically homeless and landless. Several requests were made to Government to help them by disafforestation and in ways various other ways but nothing tangible has been done so far, and we expect from the hon. Member in charge of the department—he had been in the Coimbatore district itself and knows the conditions of the district very well—that at least now he will do something to give some supply to the districts of Coimbatore and Salem, and to Trichinopoly also. It has been said over and over again that, so far as Coimbatore and Salem are concerned, it would be difficult for these districts to get water from this reservoir. But we have shown more than once from previous records and expert opinion, that the present expert opinion is not reasonable or warranted by fact. The reason why I have qualified my resolution a little so far as Salem and Trichinopoly are concerned is, that there is a little difference of opinion as to whether the water from the dam can be brought to the Salem district. The deputation clearly stated that, if there be any such difficulty, water can be given to Salem and to some extent to the Coimbatore district also by the anicut at Nerinjipet. The anicut at Nerinjipet is a very old one and, with a small sum of money, it can be repaired. The irresponsible way in which the Government deal with reports like that of the deputation will be seen from the fact that their order simply throws aside the recommendation in regard to the Nerinjipet project, because in the old nineteenth century there was one order recorded in 1887, namely, 'the Nerinjipet project will be excluded from all future lists of projects requiring investigation.' So that, once for all the Nerinjipet question was shelved and whatever may be the nature of the Government hereafter, that project shall not be considered. No further reasons are given. This order is dated 10th October 1887, more than 40 years ago. We think it is

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quite feasible to bring water to Salem, if not from the Mettur dam itself, at least from the Nerinjipet anicut. We may say, equitably also, the Trichinopoly district is entitled to have some water from the Mettur dam and we suggest this can easily be done by the Nerinjipet canal being extended a little to that district, so that it may have the benefit of this dam. That, Sir, is so far as one of the most important questions is concerned, namely, irrigation.

"Then, the other important question we have to deal with is concerning the whole Presidency as well as in the interests of future irrigation schemes. If one scheme becomes very costly to ryots, they are to be benefited in getting water from that project only by paying a large water-cess. If they have to pay enormous sums, it will have certainly a very bad effect as regards other irrigation projects. Our fear is that so far as this project is concerned, it is much more than a white elephant to the ryots or workmen of this country, but it is certainly a help to solve the unemployment question in the far-off England. One crore of rupees has to be spent on machinery, another crore has to be spent on cement, which though it may be manufactured here, goes practically to the benefit of English capitalists, so that two crores out of seven go in the initial stage to feed the Englishmen. The whole cost of the project was put at three crores about one and a half decades ago. And with every year, the estimates swell. In 1924–25 when this House gave general approval, as it were, to the scheme, the cement was never thought of, the cost was expected to be only about five and a half crores; in 1925 it came to six and to-day it is nearly seven and a half crores, and yet we are told authoritatively that we cannot say that the matter has ended, as the foundation levels have not yet been fixed up; so that I may prophesy—I am sure I may be a correct prophet in this respect—that before the completion of the work the cost will run to over ten crores.

"The deputation went into the question very carefully, visited both the dam as well as the canal system and have made several suggestions which can be expected to reduce the cost.

"But the Government have thrust aside the whole report saying that we are not experts, though the opinion of the experts is found to be wrong with regard to the site, with regard to the materials to be used, with regard to the height and with regard to everything. Expert opinion after expert opinion has been thrown away, and now we are told that we twelve people, including an expert retired engineer, their own trusted servant once and afterwards their own trusted Minister, that we do not know anything. We request any member of this House to go and see the place and I am sure he will return with tears of blood in his eyes when he realizes how our own men have been deprived of land and house and cannot get work even to support himself. 2-45 p.m.

"I will say only one thing in this connexion and that is the fourth clause of the resolution, viz., 'no filtered water be used for construction purposes and that no more money be spent for this purpose either by way of buildings or otherwise.' There is to be one big dam over one mile long and 200 feet deep and this, they say, should be built with filtered and even chlorinated water. We are told that some of the ordinary workmen will drink the ordinary Cauvery water and thus get cholera which may spread and even some of the Legislative Council members may be affected. Therefore, with a view to prevent all this they want to filter and chlorinate the water. And what does

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it cost? Some lakhs of rupees. After all will it be possible to make the workmen not to go to the Cauvery or not to drink Cauvery water? And, Sir, it is not the filteration charges only that we are complaining against. If the people living in the town of Mettur said that they too ought to be supplied with chlorinated water, we have no objection. And now, Sir, they say we want more money, some more lakhs, for this reserve of filtered water for the whole dam will involve more men and costly buildings. We know it will involve filtration tanks, filtration pipes, filtration tubes and what not. And we do not know whether the ryots would like to be charged simply for the purpose of preventing some Legislative Council member or other getting the disease. I am saying this to show how money is being wasted on all imaginary things. Why should not these people think of these things beforehand. Building was put up and after discarded, all this because somewhere malaria was prevailing.

"Then, Sir, I want to know why these high officers at Mettur should be free from the payment of house-rent. That is another thing which makes us think that somewhere things are going wrong.

"I shall now come to another important fact. At first there were no toddy or liquor shops. But the Government insist on toddy and arrack shops. The deputation included Messrs. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan and Sivaraj, who are expected to represent the labour interests, and our military officer over there from Salem—all these recommended unanimously that there should be no toddy or arrack shop there. But the Government said that if one is not established there will be illicit distillation of liquor. I am ashamed to hear this. Does it not speak volumes about the impotency of the Government? If a man wants to keep a shop he has to obtain a licence and yet we are told without a feeling of shame by this Government that they cannot prevent illicit distillation in this locality. I think the officers there merely fill their pockets with money and do nothing to promote the convenience, health and morality of the people of that locality. One of our recommendations was that these shops ought not to be opened. But the Government, without even postponing the sale, opened the shops, thereby showing what a great contempt they have got for the deputation.

"Then comes, Sir, the question of cement; and that has another sorry tale to tell. This project is fifty years old. Estimates after estimates were made and corrected. The highest authority in Calcutta and England gave their consent to the use of lime and yet in 1925, 1926 and 1927 the Chief Engineer all on a sudden for reasons best known to the Government said that they will have cement and that they will have costly machinery worth a crore of rupees to mix the cement. One of our recommendations again is that no one employed in the firm supplying the machinery or the materials should be appointed as an officer in the project. But yet there is such a gentleman, who is now the Superintending Engineer in charge of machinery. It was he who went to England more than once and is responsible for all this machinery. By the way, Sir, the servants of this company are to be given furnished houses. And three thousand rupees are to be spent on furniture! I am reliably informed that the Superintending Engineer was originally a representative of some firm. I do not say he will be dishonest. But what I mean is that his inclinations will be towards helping his own company by importing its

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machinery with the result that the whole work will depend on this machinery and if the machine goes out of order I do not know how much it will cost to get it repaired.

"May I know the time-limit, Sir?"

*The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"For the Mover of a Resolution, thirty minutes."

*Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"I was referring to the gentleman who was once a representative of the firm supplying machinery and who has been now raised to the position of Superintending Engineer and probably he now has become an indispensable person. The one reason for the adoption of machinery is that Government want to reduce the period of completion of the work. But as it is, it will take some months for the machinery to come; all its parts are yet to come; what is more the houses of these men are not yet furnished; we can't say how long it will take to fit up the machine and work it; none of us know the expenses for its repair if it goes out of order; and I do not know if there are any obliging friends like Mr. Natarajan (laughter) who will come and watch and oil this big machine in Mettur. It is impossible for me to conceive what makes Government stick to its programme already chalked out. Even supposing there will be a reduction of time according to that programme should they not consider that if they utilize human labour they will be feeding thousands and thousands of men now starving in India? The Government Order very cruelly says that we hon. Members are trying to uproot a tree to see if its roots are all right. We want to do nothing of the sort. We only want to do the whole thing a little cheaply. So the deputation suggested the use of cement for the middle and front of the dam, and the use of lime and chunam for the sides. So that if the machinery breaks or if the people in charge of the machinery strike work, work in other ways may go on; for as things stand if the machine stops the whole work must stop till the machine begins to work again. If the machinery does not work, there will be no mixing of cement 3 p.m.
and the grinding of the small pieces of stone. The Government will then say, our hon. Member will then say, 'What is to be done? The workmen have struck work and nothing can be done.' So, as a provision against it we say that we may go on partly with cement in the middle and partly with the putting up in sides of the boulders with the ordinary lime and chunam which has been approved till now and which we say is the usual method adopted in every other country excepting perhaps in the case of one or two engineering miracles existing somewhere. This question of cement is very important because we are afraid that in spite of all assurances that may be given to us by the experts on the Government side there may be difficulties in constructing the whole thing by means of the mixing of the cement, and if the whole building work is necessarily to be gone through by the mixing of the cement and the passing of the stone through this machinery, I think it will be very difficult. We saw the present machinery and the deputation knows how complicated it was, and we thought it was impossible for any machinery to do this work without some complications. Therefore we suggested the process mentioned in our report, but the Government says: 'Our experts are infallible; you people are fools so far as this matter is concerned, you transgress your powers when you begin to speak about this matter.' Above all these things we thought that the Government has some confidence in us and, shall I say, some respect for the

members of this Council, because very often they come for our votes, very often they come for our money, and therefore we suggest that in order that there may be a check upon these experts, a committee of this House, elected by this House, may be asked to visit this place occasionally—we do not ask them to be there permanently—and make its remarks or recommendations. The Government may say that will be allowing us to uproot the tree which they are gradually rearing. They say : 'You are untouchables so far as this matter is concerned. You should not touch the tree.'

"These are the main recommendations of the deputation. There are some at least which the Government in good grace could have accepted easily. I do not know if the Government of India have given their approval to the scheme. Certainly the Secretary of State for India has not given his approval to the scheme. It is therefore desirable that the Government of India and the Secretary of State should be helped by this Government with their proper views, apart from the opinions of experts. Look at the modesty of my resolution. I am surprised at myself that I should in this resolution be so ultra-modest. I appeal to the Government to do this much : if you have absolutely no faith in us, if you have absolutely no regard for our opinions, if you have no regard for the Council, can you not do at least one thing ? Can you not appoint some of your own experts whom you once applauded to the skies, people who once were Superintending Engineers and even Chief Engineers ? By all means appoint a committee composed of such people. They have got a stake in the country. They have risen from the lowest to the highest positions. They probably worked in some parts of the Salem and Coimbatore districts, and they will certainly not say anything against what is considered to be orthodox expert opinion. They are not fools to go and give any opinion, if it is wrong, against expert opinion. The last thing I would urge is only this suggestion : if the Government are not prepared to accept the suggestions of the deputation to a large extent, a committee of experts chiefly composed of retired Indian Department of Public Works officers may be appointed to go into all the questions raised in the report and in this resolution. Can there be anything more modest ? If the Government refuse to-day to accept even that small recommendation of ours, I do not know what I shall say about the Government. But I hope, Sir, from all that I have known of the hon. Member in charge for the last eight years or so, that even he would recommend our suggestions to the Government and whatever regard he may have for the experts, I hope he will have some sympathy with us. On whatever points the Government may yield, he can also yield on behalf of the Government and as regards the points on which he may not see eye to eye with us, he may appoint experts of his own, getting pension from him at present, and ask them to examine and report on them. By experts I mean not men who come and go away to their own country, men who have no experience of Indian life, customs, etc., but experts who have lived in this country and who expect to live in the country, and who are responsible for the reputation and interest of this country. If such experts go into the matter and say that our recommendations are untenable, once for all our mouths will be closed. If the Government is sincere and earnest—I do not say, if the Government are honest—I would appeal to them to show it in action by appointing this committee. I heartily commend this resolution for the consideration of this House."

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Mr. B. Ramachandra Reddi :—" Mr. President, Sir, while seconding this motion of Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, I am not going to deal with the several somersaults that the Government have performed in connexion with this Mettur Project nor am I going to expose the several engineering inconsistencies that have been committed, and I do not think it will suit my present purpose to say anything about the irregularities in procedure and the inadequate investigation that has been made before the project has been commenced. I am only going to make a few observations upon the other aspects of the question and particularly with reference to the several paragraphs or the several clauses of the resolution. I will here and there show how unsympathetic the Government has been to the most innocent recommendations that have been made by this Committee. Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar in his characteristic way has put the resolution in a long and winding form, but he could have done it in a much more brief manner. But this resolution has got in itself the virtue of having brought out all the salient features on which the report has been drafted. When the deputation was appointed by this Council, all of us thanked the hon. the Revenue Member who at the time was in charge of the Irrigation portfolio for having allowed an opportunity to this Council, or to some Members of this Council, to examine the several aspects that are connected with this Mettur Project and we expected that our labours would be properly viewed and appreciated, but the Government Order that has been issued upon this particular report is most disappointing if not discouraging. Although limitations were placed on our activities, that we should not go into the technical details of the scheme, yet we could not resist the temptation of pointing out certain of the inaccuracies that we were able to find out while going through the several reports and several papers placed before the Committee. In this particular order every paragraph has been categorically replied to, but the replies are as a matter of fact nil except to one or two. It has been pointed out by the Government that they are going to take some interest by way of removing the Collector and looking into the interests of the tenants who have already given up their lands for the Mettur Project. But as regards the other questions, they have shown utter lack of interest and we are sorry to find that there has been a deplorable discouragement evidenced in this final order of the Government. They have stated at page 63 of their order as follows: 'The Government observe that either it will be profitable for the ryots to take water at the prescribed rates or it will not. If it will be profitable, the ryots will certainly take the water and the Government then will have statutory authority under the Madras Irrigation Cess Act VII of 1865 to levy and collect the prescribed rate of water-cess.' This, I think, Sir, is placing the cart before the horse. They have not made a proper investigation as regards the desire of the ryots to take water at the rates now proposed under this scheme. They have immensely increased the water-rate by manipulating figures and put forward a case for the early undertaking of this work. But our own enquiries have proved that the Government have unnecessarily hurried on with the work without noticing the several defects that lay behind the whole scheme, and without understanding the possibilities of the success of the scheme. They have pointed out again at page 62 that the cost of establishment is only 8 per cent of the cost of the works. The work is done only in a limited locality, and yet we find a number of officers whose services

can easily be dispensed with. We also found that there are more supervising officers than real workers, because we see there is the Chief Engineer, the Superintending Engineer, several Executive Engineers and several more sub-divisional officers. This is only placing one officer for supervising over the other, and this work of supervision seems to be more in evidence than the actual work of construction that is going on. In regard to this matter all the members of the deputation have found that the cost of establishment is already very high, and proper measures must be taken for decreasing the cost of the establishment, so that the 8 per cent may be reduced. Just before the Government paid a compliment to the members of the deputation, they have made a very significant remark on page 64 of the Government
3-15 p.m. Order: 'The Government consider that no useful purpose will be achieved but considerable risk of loss incurred if there is a constant uprooting either by Government or by non-official committees of the tree to see how it is growing.' This is, Sir, in connexion with the proposal to have a standing committee of this Council to be enquiring into the progress of these works. It is a very unhappy compliment paid by the Government to the members of the deputation. It has not been the intention of the members of the deputation or of this Council that has approved of the deputation to meddle with the growing tree. Their idea has been to see whether the roots of the tree have been eaten away, whether there has been an excess of expenditure over the necessities of the case, whether it was not possible to show to the Government how the expenditure that has been incurred might be reduced to a great extent—that was the main idea with which the deputation set to work. It was not at all to obstruct the progress of the Mettur Project, but to see that the tree which was planted by this Government was properly progressing and capable of proving beneficial to the large number of ryots which it is intended to benefit. I find, Sir, that the whole matter is going to be shelved, and the words that have been expressed in the Government Order attached to this report are very discouraging. This Council is responsible for the finances of the province, for the proper spending of the provincial funds, and we do feel that it is a duty imposed upon us to press for this resolution and for the proper carrying out of the works now undertaken by Government."

* Rao Bahadur S. ELLAPPA CHETTIYAR: "Sir, I beg to move the following amendment:—

'In clause (1) of Resolution No. 802 *insert* the words "Salem and Trichinopoly" between "Coimbatore" and "district", and *substitute* "districts" for "district" and *omit* all the words beginning with "and if . . . by the deputation".'

"The amended motion will run as follows: 'immediate orders be passed for arranging the supply of water for irrigation purposes in Coimbatore, Salem and Trichinopoly districts'

"I wish to say a few words in support of my amendment. In the first instance I should thank the hon. Members of the Mettur Project Deputation for the unanimous opinion that they have expressed regarding the feasibility and necessity of taking water to all these three districts. The hon. Member representing Tanjore, Mr. Muthiah Mudaliyar, has also expressed that the people of Tanjore have no objection to the taking of water from Mettur reservoir to the other districts, such as Salem and Coimbatore. Coimbatore

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and Trichinopoly have got some hope through some other schemes, such as Bhavani Project for Coimbatore and Kattalai Project for Trichinopoly district, but for Salem there is no such scheme in the near future. Salem has to depend solely upon this Mettur reservoir scheme. Otherwise, there is no salvation for this poor district. Mettur dam is constructed within the limits of the Salem district. Vast lands have been acquired and many villagers have been sent away from their houses, who have gladly consented to give up their lands in the hope that they will be given water for irrigation from this reservoir. I am glad to note that in the Government Order recently issued Government have realized the importance of supplying water to the Salem district also. But if they take up the work of acquiring lands and excavating channels now, it will take some years. So, they could go on with this work in the Salem district first. I think that will not in any way hinder the progress of the Mettur dam project. With these few remarks I move my amendment."

Mr. T. M. NARAYANASWAMI PILLAI :—"Mr. President, Sir, I beg to second this amendment. The amendment seeks to place the recommendation in more unequivocal terms. The resolution seeks to place Salem and Trichinopoly on the same footing as Coimbatore. Sir, I shall not go over all the various questions referred to in the resolution, but shall confine myself to the amendment. The Mettur scheme, as originally designed, sought to locate all the irrigated area in one district, namely, Tanjore district. All along there has been a feeling that that was unjust and that the irrigated ayacut should be distributed between Coimbatore, Salem and Trichinopoly; and this amendment seeks to place the matter in clearer and unambiguous terms.

"I shall try to remove some misapprehensions and illusions prevalent with respect to this question. The Mover of the amendment said that Trichinopoly might hope for something in the future on account of the Kattalai scheme. I am afraid, Sir, that here is a misapprehension. The Kattalai scheme, it will be admitted, does not seek to give a new irrigation or a new ayacut either under the Mettur scheme or under any other scheme. On account of the damages caused by the floods of 1924 and on account of the heavy expenditure which the Government have been incurring on the korambu system, the Government thought it necessary and productive to invest some money on the excavation of one canal and on an anicut to ensure regular supply of water to the existing channels. Therefore, it cannot be said as an argument against conceding the claims of Trichinopoly that they could hope for something in the Kattalai scheme. It is only the guaranteeing of the existing supply through the existing channels.

"I shall also refer to another misapprehension which seems to have prevailed among the members of the deputation. While I am thankful to the members of the deputation for their realization of the claims of Trichinopoly, it is a pity that the case of Trichinopoly has not been examined as fully as it might have been and ought to have been. In 1924, when this subject came before this Council, the iniquity of the original system was recognized and the then Law Member said that he would try to reallot the portion to be irrigated, and for that purpose he was pleased to appoint the Mettur Committee. That Committee recommended that at least 50,000 new acres should be irrigated in Trichinopoly under the Mettur scheme. The question was

examined by the Chief Engineer. The Chief Engineer was pleased to observe that, while in the case of Salem and Coimbatore there were engineering difficulties, there was absolutely no such difficulty in the case of Trichinopoly. Not only that, but the financial aspects also were much better. While the scheme wanted only Rs. 15 per acre in the case of Tanjore, i.e., if the whole area were located in Tanjore alone, it required Rs. 16 if this extension of irrigation was to be given to Trichinopoly; and this Rs. 16 the tax-payers of Trichinopoly were willing to pay.

"Now, Sir, if we refer to the report of the Chief Engineer, I believe there is an apparent mistake, and I submit that even the Rs. 16 would not be the rate if a proper computation were made. The Chief Engineer said that the net cost of the scheme of irrigating 50,000 acres will be 42 lakhs and in dividing the return on this amount he said that Rs. 16 would have to be realized from each acre in the Trichinopoly district. That 42 lakhs was arrived at by including a sum of 25 lakhs which was to be debited to the anicut across the Kattalai. So, the calculation went wrong on that basis. If there was to be a Kattalai scheme, if there was to be a Kattalai anicut, it was wrong to debit that sum of 25 lakhs necessary for the anicut as against the Mettur scheme. Therefore, if we take the figures given by the Chief Engineer, the real net cost that should be debited to the scheme would be 42 minus 25 lakhs. Therefore, the rate, so far as Trichinopoly is concerned, would be far less than Rs. 15. I submit that in the case of Trichinopoly there is no difficulty whatever, neither engineering nor financial. It would be the most productive scheme, and there have been expert opinions expressed that the Trichinopoly scheme was much better than the Pattukkottai scheme. Now, Sir, I am not going to traverse all those regions. In trying to claim for Trichinopoly its equitable share, I would only press this on Government to reconsider that portion of their order relating to this district. They seem to have felt that it is really unjust to have excluded Trichinopoly and in page 61, paragraph (2) (i) of the order, they say 'it may be practicable to achieve this object by extending the area at present irrigated through the existing open head channels taking off from the Cauvery on either side.'

3-30 p.m. "I submit that the investigation of the question need not be confined to this narrow issue. They may examine the question whether it is possible to irrigate an extent of 50,000 or more acres through the extension of the existing open-head channels and also through opening new channels, say, at Kattlai or at some other place to the east of it. The deputation has suggested another channel from Nerinchipettai. This also may be examined. As it is, the Government Order seems to exclude the investigation of such questions. As a matter of fact, the investigation of the question of irrigating through these new channels is not a new thing. Already, in 1908 and 1910 these questions have been investigated, considered and conclusions arrived at to the effect that irrigation so extended would be beneficial and productive. Therefore, while we have before our minds this report, it will be unjust to Trichinopoly to exclude the consideration of these proposals. The Mover of the resolution has travelled over a wide range of subjects, but mine is a humble lot. I am not here quarrelling with the huge waste of cement or machinery. (Cries of: 'Why not'?). (The hon. the President: 'Order, order.') My only request to the Government is to see that the injustice which they have admitted is redressed.

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And, in redressing that injustice, I request them not to confine their investigation to the consideration of extension through the open-head channels alone. I request them to carry out their idea of giving a concession to Trichinopoly by any means. Let them not be scared away even if it becomes necessary to cut new channels in order to extend the irrigation facilities in Trichinopoly.

"There is always the illusion that Trichinopoly has any number of irrigation works as compared with Tanjore. The truth is that it has not got even one-tenth of what Tanjore has got. Its irrigable area is not even 3 per cent of the total extent of irrigation in that district. Having 73 miles of the Cauvery running through our district, we are not allowed to have its benefit to the extent to which we are entitled. We feel that once we let this opportunity slip, we shall have no such chance hereafter. It is a question of now or never. That is our condition. Therefore hon. Members will be pleased to accept this amendment and see that Trichinopoly gets its fair share by any means, either through open-head channels or through new channels taking off at Kattalai. This alone will extend irrigation in the Trichinopoly and Kulittalai taluks."

Mr. K. S. SIVASUBRAHMANYA AYYAR :—" Mr. President, Sir, while I accord my hearty support to many of the recommendations contained in this comprehensive resolution moved by my hon. Friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar, I feel that the recommendation embodied in clause (1) that immediate orders be passed for arranging the supply of water for irrigation purposes in Coimbatore district and, if not impossible, in the districts of Salem and Trichinopoly, as recommended by the deputation, is premature and requires a good deal of examination before any decision can be arrived at.

" I quite sympathise with the hon. Mover's object, but at the same time I have to invite the attention of this House to the fact which has been recognized ever since the inception of this scheme that its primary object is to improve and protect the irrigation of the existing delta. It is therefore but meet that my hon. Friend and Colleague Mr. C. Marudavanam Pillai should have laid special stress in his note of dissent to the report of the Mettur deputation that 'this project owed its origin from the very outset to the need which the Government and the ryots have felt for generations for stabilizing supply of water to the deltaic tracts of the district of Tanjore under cultivation, and rendering that valuable and revenue-yielding area free from the uncertainties and risks of unseasonable floods and the irregularities and unexpected shortages of supply when water is needed most.' The total land revenue which the Tanjore ryots have paid to the Government in fasli 1336 is roughly 78 lakhs, the largest contributed by any district or extent of cultivated land in this Presidency. The construction of a reservoir, therefore, for stabilizing and assuring the supply of water for irrigation in the district of Tanjore is not only a legitimate but a primary charge on the revenues of this province. Besides, the area newly proposed to be brought under cultivation in the Tanjore district is one which will largely benefit a backward community, and times without number we have been assured that this is one of the ways in which the reclamation of the Kallar community is proposed to be brought about. It is in this view, therefore, that special stress has so often been laid both by the people of the district concerned and by the press on the fact that this project is more a protective than a productive one and that revenue considerations alone should not weigh with the Government. In this

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sense, the importance of the recommendation embodied in clause (9) of this resolution becomes apparent and I would suggest to the Government the desirability of making further enquiries in the matter before finally adopting any rates to suit their estimates.

"I am very much surprised that this very reasonable suggestion which weighed with my hon. Friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar in regard to the Tanjore district should have been clean forgotten by him when he dealt with the other districts. He has already expressed in this Council that the ryots of Coimbatore would be willing to pay any rates that the Government might fix for the irrigation facilities they might give them. In this connexion I would suggest that it will not be wrong to say that the necessity of coming to an early understanding with the ryots of the other districts with a view to avoid possible difficulties in the future is equally important. But, before that matter can be taken into consideration, the question whether the supply of water is possible or feasible has to be gone into. The Government, in their order on the report of the Mettur deputation, say: 'The question whether some land in Coimbatore and Salem districts could be irrigated by channels taking off from the Mettur reservoir has already been considered and the Government on the advice of the Chief Engineer abandoned the idea on engineering and financial grounds. The Government, however, have always held the view that these districts should be served to some extent by the Mettur scheme if this could be done at a rate that would pay for the cost and was not so high as to make realization doubtful or difficult. It seems to the Government that it may be practicable to achieve this object by extending the area at present irrigated through the existing open-head channels taking off from the Cauvery on either side. It may be possible to let in more water into these channels and thus extend irrigation at a cost that would not be prohibitive. The question will be remitted to the Engineer-in-Chief for early investigation and report.' Before therefore immediate orders can be passed for arranging the supply of water to these districts, the Government have to await the report of the Engineer-in-Chief as to the feasibility of the proposal. And, when the Chief Engineer's report is received, it will be time enough to consider, if his report is in favour of the possibility of the supply of water to other districts, the actual cost that will have to be incurred for this additional supply and the rates that will have to be levied. It is then and only then that it will be possible to come to an understanding with the ryots of those districts as to the rates. In this view, therefore, I consider, as I have already said, that the recommendation contained in clause (i) is premature. I need hardly say that the other recommendations embodied in this resolution have my full support."

* Mr. C. Marudavanam Pillai :—"Mr. President, Sir, as I represent the district which this scheme is intended to benefit, I would be failing in my duty if I do not express my views and impressions gained by visiting the headquarters of this project. Generally, I endorse the views contained in the report, but I take exception to the views given expression to by my hon. Friend Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar and also by my hon. Friends from Trichinopoly and Salem. I request not to be misunderstood. It should not be thought that the people of my district are jealous of, and do not want to give water to, the districts of Trichinopoly, Salem and Coimbatore. As has been clearly stated in the report, if the scheme could be so modified, without any detriment to the lower riparian rights of the Tanjore ryots to water,

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water may be allowed to Salem, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly; because it is not a thing which is not known to the Government or to the public that Tanjore is paying a land revenue of 76 lakhs of rupees to the Government. The Government is bound to maintain irrigation works and also the necessary irrigation facilities for the district which is paying the largest revenue. As has been pointed out by previous speakers, the scheme was originally intended to conserve the existing irrigation in Tanjore and also if possible to provide extension of irrigation to other areas. Therefore even now if the Government refer this scheme to a deputation of experts and find it possible to modify as to benefit other districts also, certainly Tanjore people will have no objection to it. As the scheme at present stands, it is purely a scheme intended for irrigating the large unirrigated area of Tanjore and also to stabilize the existing irrigation of Tanjore. My submission is that the interests of landholders as well as the interests of landowners of those lands which this scheme is going to benefit should not be interfered with by diverting water to any other place. As a layman, during my visit to that Mettur Project, it struck me that it was an extravagant and wasteful expenditure on the part of the Government to spend moneys under the heads of establishments, communications and so on. Certainly, if the Government had any means of reducing the expenditure they might have done so in the interests of the tax-payer. I also suggest that by cutting down the charges on establishment and other items the savings effected might be utilized for the reduction of rates which are going to be levied for the areas to be irrigated by this new scheme. I appeal to the Government to find out ways and means to reduce the extravagant expenditure so that such a reduction might go to the benefit of tax-payers. 3-45 p.m.

"So far as other points which find a place in the resolution are concerned, I do not approve of them. I do not agree that the scheme should be suspended till the revised estimate is sanctioned, because Tanjore is already longing for the project and it is but just and fair on the part of this Government not to defer the scheme but to see that it is completed at as early a date as possible.

"With these few words, I support generally the principle of this resolution."

Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—"In rising to support this resolution, I wish to make only a few remarks. In the order of the Government on the report of the Mettur deputation the Government say 'The object of the Government is not to invite criticism on professional details.' The criticism that has been offered by the hon. Members of the deputation as regards the question of substituting surki mortar for cement has been brushed aside as a criticism of the professional details of the scheme. When it is to be considered whether a fabric is to be built of granite or brick it is not a professional detail. It is one of the fundamentals of the scheme. That deputation has come to the conclusion that at least a part of the dam should be built in surki mortar instead of cement. This cannot be brushed aside simply as a professional detail with which the deputation has nothing to do.

"Then, the last request in the resolution is that, if the Government are not prepared to accept the suggestions of the report to a large extent, a committee should be appointed to go into the question. This is only a moderate proposal. Still there are experts who think that a colossal mistake is being made

in building the whole dam with cement. That question was not disposed of by the Government of India. The report that was supplied dealt with only one portion of the question. But the question of using mortar still remains to be disposed of. Therefore, Sir, the request that mortar may be used for the whole dam or at least for a portion of it is a legitimate request.

"Another important point is that machinery to the extent of one crore of rupees is being sent for. The deputation says that all the agriculturists are suffering from famine conditions and skilled and unskilled labour should be utilized in the place of labour-saving machinery."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"On what clause is the hon. Member speaking?"

* Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—"On the point raised by the deputation in their report."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I may point out to the hon. Member that it is not the report of the deputation that we are dealing with now. It is the resolution of Mr. C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar that is under consideration."

* Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—"I shall restrict myself to that.

"The third point I wish to refer to is the employment of a young Belgian gentleman named Bellefontaine, who is drawing a salary of Rs. 750. After all he is a pure marine mechanic, an ordinary mill coolie and he is to be given £60 per mensem or £720 per annum, a thing unheard of in the annals of the distribution of salaries. After all he has been connected with a machine-manufacturing company and he underwent a course of education only for five years in Belgium. Such a man to be given so high a salary is a thing which I condemn. The excuse given by the Government for the importation of this gentleman is that they are going to import heavy and costly machinery, that it would be very difficult to train men here to use that machinery and that therefore they had to bring this man from Belgium. I submit that no time should be lost in seeing that this gentleman's services are dispensed with. Drilling machines require no training at all. Anybody could sit and work on it. Several machines have been used for agricultural operations by the Development Department which are a misnomer for pumping and boring operations, and several of our countrymen have had training in pumping and boring work. So to import this Belgian gentleman at such a high salary is, I consider, an extravagant and slanderous waste of public money.

"Sir, we hear that in building this dam they are using filtered water. Human wants are many and where there is a bad supply of water we require filtered water. But dam is not a human being, it will not be affected with epidemic if unfiltered water is used. I know that several buildings have been built by using unfiltered water. So there is no necessity at all to use filtered water at such a high cost."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I request the hon. Member Mr. Ellappa Chettiyar not to use the Council Hall as a room for reading newspapers."

* Mr. L. K. TULASIRAM :—"I raise also my voice in support of the people of Salem. Salem has been considered to be suffering from want of water for irrigation purposes. The Mettur dam is to be built between the boundaries

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of Salem and Coimbatore. In Nerinjapet there is a ruined anicut and if that is revived it will give some water to the people of Salem. We always see a number of people migrating from Salem district to other districts and if we ask them what is the reason for their migration, they say 'we have no water facilities there'. If there is any district which really needs water it is Salem district. The Mettur Project is being built to give irrigation facilities to the Tanjore district, but at the same time it is also necessary that a few taluks of Salem district should be supplied with water because they are the people whose lands are acquired and it is their villages that are going to be submerged in water. It is therefore necessary that people who make the first sacrifice should have the benefit also of the undertaking. To say that water cannot be taken from a lower level to a higher level cannot hold water. Water can be taken from a lower level to a higher level. As one connected with Periyar system, I know water is taken from a lower level to a higher level by construction of suitable sluices. So it is not an extraordinary thing for the Engineering department to take water to a higher place in the Salem district.

"Then the Government say no useful purpose will be served by uprooting the tree by going and visiting the tree very often. Sir, it is very easy to indulge in allegories and similes. What the deputation wants is not to uproot the tree but to see how the tree is growing, whether the leaves are falling and whether there is foliage at the top. The hon. the Secretary says that the sending of a deputation is uprooting the tree. We are also businessmen and we want to see whether the watchman is taking care about the tree and not uprooting the tree. Therefore to say that by going and visiting the Mettur Project you will be uprooting the tree is a thing which cannot hold water. The object of such visits is to see that money is not wasted, that the subordinates there are not paid such high salaries to simply sit under the cool breeze of the punkah. . . ."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT:—"The hon. Member will kindly bring his remarks to a close."

* Mr L. K. TULASIRAM:—"With these remarks I support the proposition and say that a committee ought to be appointed and must be given the permission to make occasional visits to the Mettur Project so that they may make their criticisms in this House."

* Khan Bahadur P. KHALIF-UL-LAH SAHIB Bahadur:—"In rising to support the amendment as well as the proposition which have been moved, I wish to place a few facts before this House. So far as the river Cauvery is concerned, it is running not only through Tanjore, but also through the districts of Salem, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly. We have to bear the burden of the river as well as the dangers from its overflow through our district. In fact, in the year 1924 we bore the brunt of the heavy flood that came along the river and Trichinopoly has suffered a loss of nearly 10,000 acres of its wet lands.

"My hon. Friend, Mr. Narayanaswami Pillai, has already told you that of 70,000 acres of wet lands in our district we lost about 10,000 acres on account of the floods. It is but fair and just that we should be given a share of the benefits of the project. The hon. Member from Tanjore said that if 4 p.m.

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they were not touched he had no objection to Coimbatore, Salem and Trichinopoly having a portion of the Mettur water. I do not know what he meant. But if he has no objection to these districts also sharing the benefits of the project, then it can only be done by the Tanjore district foregoing a little bit of the benefits they are going to derive from the project. The present proposal is to irrigate three lakhs of acres in the Pattukottai taluk. It is well known that all these lands are at present dry lands and the proposal is to make the same absolutely wet. On the contrary, the original Mettur scheme proposed to take the new channel not along the Grand Anicut but across Kulittalai and Trichinopoly taluks of the Trichinopoly district which would have benefited about a lakh of acres in that district. Already, there are about 50,000 acres of wet lands in those two taluks and the present proposal is to take an off-take from this river and make them receive the benefits of the Mettur scheme also. I may say here that this may not necessarily be at the cost of Tanjore; for we are already well provided with a network of tanks. It is a well-known fact that the floods in the Cauvery come a little too early and waste themselves into the sea. If only the engineering authorities take care to fill these tanks in time, I am quite sure that we will not be depriving the people of Tanjore of any of the benefits that they hope to derive under the present scheme. But even if they should happen to lose a little bit, they should not grudge; for after all Salem, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly have as good riparian rights in the river Cauvery as Tanjore itself. I would even go further and say that these districts, being higher up the river, have a better riparian right in the river than Tanjore which is at the tail end of the river. My hon. Friend, Mr. Ellappa Chettiyar, said that, while there was a prospect of Coimbatore and Trichinopoly getting the benefits of other schemes, there was none whatever for Salem. I quite sympathise with the people of Salem, but I should say that we stand to gain nothing by any other scheme. We are not going to gain anything new by the Kattalai scheme which only goes to safeguard the interests of the existing ayacuts but not for increasing the irrigated areas. We are in the same boat as Salem and Coimbatore, not a bit better than they. We ask nothing more than bare justice to be done to us when we ask that out of three lakhs of acres proposed to be irrigated by the new project a few thousands may be given to us, say 40 or 50 thousand acres. All these 40 or 50 thousand acres are, as I said before already, wet, most of them. The preliminary work of converting the dry lands into wet ones is not necessary here. The ryots are already there. Whereas in Tanjore they have to colonise the area anew for the purpose of converting the dry area into wet. That is a great problem and it remains to be seen whether it will succeed. Government have taken so many things for granted in arriving at conclusions regarding the productivity of the project. No such presumptions exist in the case of Trichinopoly as in the case of the other districts. We have got wet lands already there. We have told Government that we are not only prepared to pay the new rate of Rs. 15 or 20 or whatever it may be, but also contribute to the capital expenditure of the scheme if it is deemed necessary. There is absolutely no difficulty so far as the extension of the benefits to these districts is concerned."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The hon. Member is requested to bring his remarks to a close soon."

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Khan Bahadur P. KHALIFULLAH SAHIB Bahadur :—" So far as Trichinopoly district is concerned, engineering experts have told us that there are absolutely no engineering difficulties. Therefore, taking into consideration the fact that there is no engineering difficulty and that we are ready to pay any rate and contribute to the capital cost of the concern, it is but for bare justice that we are crying for, when we ask Government to re-investigate the question if necessary and sanction the extension to our district."

Diwan Bahadur R. N. AROGYASWAMI MUDALIYAR :—" Mr. President, it is not without a feeling almost akin to despair that I rise to support this resolution. This question has been discussed again and again on the floor of the House ; but so far, I am afraid that we have received little satisfaction. But before proceeding further, may I thank the hon. the Revenue Member for giving us an opportunity of discussing this question and I hope that this time it will be more fruitful than on previous occasions.

" The Mettur Project has been sanctioned as a productive scheme ; but before I refer to the details of the scheme mentioned in the resolution now before the House I shall refer to a few points which make it almost certain that this project is not going to satisfy the requirements of a productive public work. Apart from what is certainly the expenditure on the work itself which will increase considerably before they are done with it, I should like to point out that Government does not seem so far to have considered the effect of the execution of the Mettur scheme on the present irrigation in Tanjore. The project has for its main object the substitution of continuous flow for what I may call intermittent flow in the river. The substitution of continuous flow for an intermittent flow is obtained by the storage of flood-water and limitation of maximum discharges in the rivers in Tanjore. The immediate result will be a very considerable reduction in flood supplies. When the flood supplies become reduced, although the supply in seasons of low water are increased, it is certain that on account of this reduction of flood supplies the lands that now depend for their irrigation on the drainage rivers would considerably suffer ; and unless Government take steps at once to carry out the necessary work to prevent loss to those who will suffer on account of the substitution of continuous for intermittent supply, the result I expect will almost be disastrous and, instead of the project proving, as I hope the Government want it to prove, a blessing to the ryots of Tanjore, it will almost come as a curse to certain portions of the delta. The point that I wish to mention is this, that before long Government would be forced to undertake works for what I may call the remodelling of the rivers and distributory systems in Tanjore. What the cost of this is going to be we have no idea at all. And is Government going to include the cost of the necessary alterations in those works in the capital cost of the Mettur Project or is it going to be charged to the capital cost of the delta system ? This is a thing about which we know nothing at present. The whole of the expenditure on the Mettur works now consists of works which are almost outside the delta. The first effects of the construction of the Mettur reservoir will be disadvantageous to the delta in some respects. It is only fair that Government should follow the principle of capitalizing the costs of the consequential alterations in the rivers and distributary systems in Tanjore on account of the construction of the Mettur Project and debit it to the capital cost of the

Mettur Project itself. What this capital cost will be is not known now. But certainly it is not going to make the project a productive work.

"I shall now come to the Mettur Project itself. The Committee has gone carefully into all the points that are before the House in this resolution. I shall deal first with the question of the extra cost on account of certain alterations that have been made. About the alteration of the site of the dam, when the first proposal for this was put forward it was stated that the alteration was necessitated by the floods of 1924. It was explained that at the original site of the dam it was impossible to dispose of the floods of 1924 and that the new site proposed presented facilities for the disposal of the surplus both on the right and the left banks. It was stated that the Ellis Saddle was incapable of disposing of the floods of 1924 and that the new site would be able to dispose of even larger floods than those of 1924. But what has happened? The site has been changed; we hear nothing about the new surplus arrangements at all which were supposed to be under consideration on the right bank of the river. The floods of 1924 are now proposed to be disposed of through the Ellis Saddle alone. We now see how the decision for the alteration of the site of the dam costing so much extra expenditure was taken with undue haste and without that detailed examination and investigation that the importance of the matter demanded.

1-15 p.m. "I refer to this point to illustrate what the committee has been trying to place before the Government, namely, that these alterations that have been made in the Mettur Project and have caused considerable excess in the total estimate have been rather hastily taken up without due consideration and careful examination that a project of this nature demands. I do not wish to say much on the question of cement *versus* lime as it has been sufficiently discussed on the floor of this House. Considering the haste with which the Government have been going on with the construction of the foundations of the dam at the new site, although I recognize that it will not be possible to go back to lime mortar alone, we have not been placed in possession of convincing facts to prove that it is indispensable that cement should be used. The objections raised against surki mortar were answered and it was proved that the dam could be safely constructed with surki mortar. This point was considered when Colonel Ellis was in charge of the project, and his proposals supported by Sir Hugh Keeling were accepted and the estimates sanctioned by Mr. St. John Gebbie, who succeeded Sir John Benton. We are now getting a new set of experts who have stated that lime mortar is useless and that it is necessary that cement mortar alone should be used. What were the reasons that were given for indispensability of cement mortar? Apart from the question of its suitability it was stated that it was going to result in considerable increase of revenue during the years of construction. It was expected that the period of construction would be shortened and, in consequence, a considerable amount of extra revenue would accrue to the Government during the construction period. Although I see no reference specifically in the printed papers that have been supplied to us, I presume that the Revenue Department have not been able to agree to shortening the period for the extension of irrigation. By accelerating the construction of the dam, if your irrigation does not expand equally fast, the result would be that, while the cost of the scheme would go up, the large revenue that was anticipated would not be realized while interest charges will go up. We hear nothing about

increased revenue; the cost of the scheme only has been increasing. I take it that the Revenue Department are not going to accept an accelerated expansion of irrigation. It is for these reasons that the Committee expressed its dissatisfaction with the most recent decisions of the Government.

"Concerning the question of irrigation facilities to Salem and Coimbatore, this has also been discussed on the floor of this House. We have been told that experts have prepared estimates and have found that the cost of carrying water to Salem and Coimbatore is so prohibitive that it is impossible to do so. I have some knowledge of what exactly happened. Estimates were prepared not within recent times but 25 years ago. Estimates were prepared by the late Mr. Moss. His proposals were intended to irrigate somewhere about 25,000 acres in Salem and Coimbatore; but the funniest part of it was that, while irrigation was only to a limited extent, the channels themselves commanded something like 200,000 acres. Obviously, if more careful estimates are prepared and if the Government send out really their experts to prepare the estimates on modern lines, they would have found that the cost would be quite reasonable. If the Government are able to give water to a reasonable area, I say that the cost of the new schemes would be found to be quite reasonable.

"In the Government Order that was published as a result of the recommendations of the deputation the Government state that they are prepared to consider the feasibility of extending irrigation from the Corambu channels. I feel sure that the districts of Salem and Coimbatore should get some share of the Mettur water. I would urge on the hon. the Revenue Member the necessity for insisting upon his experts preparing reliable estimates; because, as I see, what has been done was that they took up the estimates of 1903 which I know were incorrectly prepared and have simply estimated the cost with reference to the current rates. Therefore, I consider those estimates as quite unreliable; and, in view of the volume of feeling in this House and in the country that a larger share should be given out of the Mettur water for irrigation in Salem, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly districts, I think it is my duty to inform the Government that this question must be examined carefully. I therefore have very much pleasure in supporting this resolution."

Mr. K. Koti Reddi:—"Mr. President, Sir, I shall confine my attention at present with regard to one question in which I am deeply interested, viz., the distribution of water of the Mettur reservoir for irrigation in the various districts of the Presidency. The policy of the Government with regard to the distribution of water is so unwise and so impolitic that we find that the crying of the Members in this Council for a better policy has been a cry in the wilderness. The Government seem to be obsessed with the idea of the productive (or otherwise) nature of irrigation schemes, and every project is tested purely on those lines with the result that a good deal of injustice is being done to districts which are really entitled to the distribution of a share of the water. Sir, from a selfish point of view, I am not interested either in Coimbatore, Salem or Trichinopoly; but on higher policy I feel strongly that, when a river runs through various districts, the distribution of that water ought to be equitable and fair to the various districts that are concerned. I can understand the position of Tanjore if they say that they are prepared to pay not only the present charge, that is the usual rate so much per acre, but

every additional pie that they earn by this new irrigation facility, so that the country is not in any way the loser."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I am afraid the hon. Member will have to confine himself to the terms of the resolution."

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" I am justified in asking the Government to give water to Coimbatore, Salem and Trichinopoly from a point of view which requires some elaboration."

* The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I am afraid it is outside the scope of this resolution, however interesting the point may be."

* Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—" The Government are wrong in insisting not to give water to Trichinopoly, Salem and Coimbatore mainly because it does not pay. No doubt, in their Government Order they say that there are some engineering difficulties ; there are no such difficulties which cannot be easily overcome. The only question with them seems to be is whether it will pay Government to give water to Salem, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly districts. If the Government look at this question from a wider and general point of view, viz., the amount of wealth that is going to be added to the country by means of irrigation projects, it is my firm conviction that most of the projects that are given up as unremunerative are really productive ones from the point of view of the country. I hope the Government would look at this aspect of the question before they consider a scheme as productive or unproductive. I am certain that the Mettur project will be productive from this point of view, whatever may be the point of view of the Government. Relying on the basis that the scheme is productive, we have to consider how far the Government are justified in denying water to those districts. I can understand Government giving water to Tanjore for the present ayacut. But if the Government are going to deny supply of water to Coimbatore, Salem and Trichinopoly for the sake of irrigating three additional lakhs of acres in Tanjore, that is very unjust and inequitable. I hope the hon. the Revenue Member will consider the question of equitable distribution of water of the Cauvery river from the points of view urged by various members. The whole difficulty seems to lie in the fact that it costs less for the Government to supply water to Tanjore. I think the Government are following a bad and unwise policy in doing so. If they can charge some reasonable rate for water, it would be all right. One can understand the Government if they ask the people of Coimbatore and Trichinopoly as well as those of other districts to pay a flat rate per acre. Or the Government can charge according to the value of the water to the particular ryot who is given water. The Government are at present following an uncertain policy, a policy which no one can understand. If they ask that Tanjore should pay Rs. 15 and that Coimbatore should pay Rs. 25 because of the varying value of water to the ryots, I can understand that policy. After all, from the point of view of the State, not the cost of the water but the value of the water to the ryot should be taken into consideration. Let Tanjore which wants three lakhs of acres of land more to be irrigated in that district pay something more than the bare cost if it wants water that can be given more justly to other districts. Why should the water of the Cauvery be used for the benefit of one district alone at the cost of the

other three districts? It is stated that the Mettur project was originally intended for irrigating lands in the Tanjore district. According to the point of view of the Government and according to the point of view of the Engineers who are obsessed with the idea of productiveness of an irrigation project, it may be so. It is better that they give up this false standard of productiveness and look from the point of view of the additional wealth the irrigation project is going to bring to this country apart from the point of view of the bare revenue that the Government will get. If once they realize this fact, where is the difficulty about the matter? The Government consider the question from the point of view of the revenue they will get. They do not take into account the money they will get in the shape of income-tax and the money that the local boards will get. Besides a particular district, a particular area, a particular channel is treated separately. This is a most unwise policy. This is a policy which one who can devote some kind of attention to the matter cannot understand. It is better that the Government fix a good and wise standard which is based on general principles. I can understand if the Government charge a flat rate of Rs. 15 or Rs. 20 everywhere. You take then into consideration the amount you are going to get, and not the cost of the scheme. The only just standard is the value to the ryot of the water that is supplied to him. This is not easy to fix and is variable. Generally you can fix one flat rate for the ryots of Tanjore and another rate for the ryots of Coimbatore. On the whole it will be all right."

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"I am not able to see how the question of the levy of rates is relevant to the resolution before the House."

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"As I said, Sir, if the Government's object in giving up the Coimbatore, Salem and Trichinopoly districts is that the scheme will be unproductive because the ryots of those districts do not pay very high rates, I say it will not be unproductive. From my point of view, the value of the additional production of grain due to extended irrigation in these various districts is certainly more than enough to satisfy the requirements of a productive scheme . . ." 4-30 p.m.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"May I ask the hon. Member, for the benefit of the other hon. Members, to confine himself to the time-limit?"

Mr. K. KOTI REDDI :—"I want to impress on the Government the necessity of deeply pondering over this question of the productive or unproductive nature of the scheme. Judging by the standard that they have set before themselves, namely, the revenue-producing capacity of a particular project without regard to its usefulness to all the people concerned, they will surely come to the conclusion that this scheme is after all unproductive. Let them consider that a scheme is productive or not, not in the shape of mere revenue to the Government but in terms of additional wealth created by such a scheme. No particular district should be considered as a separate area for the purpose of deciding this productive nature of the scheme. Judging from that standard, Sir, I believe it is but fair and just that the claims of the various districts wishing to have a fair share of the waters of the Cauvery should be satisfied."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS :—"Mr. President, Sir, I am glad to see from this resolution that the hon. the Mover does not now suggest a

cessation of the work. That was the proposition in the report which the deputation submitted to the Government. Apart from that, the most important recommendation, in the opinion of the Government, was the recommendation that some parts of Salem, Coimbatore and Trichinopoly districts should be irrigated. I would invite the attention of the House to the remarks of Government on that recommendation :—

'The Government have always held the view that these districts should be served to some extent by the Mettur scheme if this could be done at a rate that would pay for the cost and was not so high as to make realization doubtful or difficult. It seems to the Government that it may be practicable to achieve this object by extending the areas at present irrigated through the existing open-head channels taking off from the Cauvery on either side. It may be possible to let in more water into these channels and thus extend irrigation at a cost that would not be pronhibitive. The question will be remitted to the Engineer-in-Chief for early investigation and report. Pending a final decision in the matter, the acquisition of lands and excavation of channels in the tail-end portion of the system'

(that is in Tanjore)

'should be deferred.'

"We have thus taken steps to see that, pending the investigation of this matter, the whole area should not be taken up, i.e., the allotted 301,000 acres should not be taken up completely in Tanjore, but that a sufficient area should be reserved for irrigation in the other districts and that the question should be investigated. I note the suggestion of Mr Arogyaswami Mudaliyar that the estimates which were prepared a couple of years ago as regards irrigation from the Cauvery in the Coimbatore and Salem districts were incorrectly prepared and that merely old data were used for applying new rates. If that is so, the matter will be re-investigated. The real question is whether the land either in Coimbatore or in Salem can be irrigated from Mettur at a cost which is likely to be profitable to the ryot; because Government holds that if it is not likely to be profitable to the ryot, he would not be prepared to take water; nor will it be useful to take an agreement from him, because if it is not profitable to him to take the water, we practically cannot recover the revenue from him.

"As regards the question of Trichinopoly, there is a scheme for a new channel being made from the Cauvery to irrigate an area of about 10,000 acres at a place called Kattalai. It is being investigated; but I cannot agree with the optimism of Mr. Narayanaswami Pillai when he suggests that the cost of the anicut necessary to feed the channel should be omitted from the calculation. As I have said, we have considered sympathetically the most important recommendation of the Committee, and we are taking steps to comply with it, if we can practicably do so.

"Another suggestion made by the deputation and now repeated in this resolution has reference to the question of using cement for the whole dam or for only portions of it. If hon. Members will look at the revised estimate which was communicated to them all including the deputation, they will see that a considerable portion of the dam is to consist of surki mortar. In fact, there is an amount of 13 lakhs shown as saving consequent upon the use of surki mortar, and it is explained that that amount of Rs. 13 lakhs is due to the fact that 20 per cent of surki mortar and 80 per cent of cement was to be used. We have subsequently heard from the Chief Engineer that he will probably be able to use a larger quantity, and I hope some further saving will result.

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"There are various other less important matters on which the deputation have made recommendations, and I shall briefly go through them as they were all mentioned again by the Mover of the resolution.

"As regards money to be spent on buildings, all expenditure on buildings is practically finished and Government have no proposal before them for additional buildings at present, and probably more buildings may not be necessary; anyway none will be built unless absolutely necessary, because after the dam is finished and the work is completed, these buildings will be practically of little use. As a matter of fact, they are all buildings of a temporary nature, and their cost is very much less than that of buildings built according to standard designs.

"It is said that no more money need be spent on the road from Erode to Mettur in view of the new rail road from Salem. We certainly do not propose to spend any more money on this road after the railway comes into working. But it is not working yet, and the present road has to be used. Practically the whole money allotted for its construction has been spent, and it is only the cost of maintenance of the road at such a standard as will enable it to bear the transport of the machinery, etc., that have to go to Mettur that will have to be incurred hereafter.

"As regards the supply of filtered water for construction purposes, I am obliged to differ from the hon. Member who moved the resolution. This was due to the recommendations of the Health Staff who maintained that by supply of unfiltered water on the works, the people drank it and that it was one of the causes of cholera. I need not say that apart from humanitarian considerations an outbreak of cholera is calculated to cause considerable loss as the workmen will run away, and the work is likely to be stopped and delayed. Apart from this, nowadays, higher standards are expected of Government in dealing with the labour they employ in regard to this matter.

"The next suggestion is that all possible attempts should be made to cut down the establishment at the top and that no new offices be created hereafter. The establishment charges have been kept as low as practicable, and are considerably below the amount provided in the estimates.

"The next suggestion is that no one employed in the firms supplying machinery or material to the Government be hereafter employed in the Government service. I do not think that is good business, because I believe it is an ordinary practice and a desirable one, that in the case of special machines, it is useful to employ a man who is familiar with them at least for some time till we train our own people to understand and work the machines. In this connexion, statements were made regarding the sumptuous residences and furniture given to these officers. I may tell the House that whatever it is, whether sumptuous or not, they have to pay rent at rates calculated to cover the cost. It is not supplied free.

"The next proposal is that house rent should be collected from all officers serving in connection with the project. This concession of free housing was given because Mettur is an out of the way place, practically in the middle of the jungle and also malarious and all stores and conveniences of life have to be obtained from outside."

Mr. C. V. VENKATARAMANA AYYANGAR :—"Provisions are being carried by the Government."

The hon. Sir NORMAN MARJORIBANKS:—" That is only from the railway station. I do not think it is an unusual concession, and I think that very largely contributes to the contentment and efficiency of the service which is so important in a project of this nature.

" As regards the recommendation about the amenities of workmen and the closing of toddy shops, those matters were referred to the Mettur Advisory Committee, and we have not yet received their report.

" With reference to the question of fixing the water rates in the Tanjore district, the view taken by the Government has been explained in the Government Order, and I do not think I need repeat it, because I did not hear any Member who has spoken on the subject dealing with that matter.

" As regards the setting up of an advisory committee, I am sorry that any Member of the deputation should have thought that the Government intended to cast any aspersion on the members of the Committee by the remark that they thought it 'undesirable to be uprooting the tree to see how it is growing.' They will notice that Government have included themselves in the remark. If it was considered derogatory, it applies also to the Government.

" When we have started an important work like this and have framed our final estimates, it is good policy to give the responsible officers in charge of the work some discretion, to leave them alone to carry it out unless we have reason to suppose that there is something wrong that needs investigation. For Government to be sending committees either of officials or non-officials at intervals there, upsets the work and unsettles the minds of the people on the spot who are doing the work; and I do not think we will get good service. On the other hand, if there is any reason to suspect that there is anything wrong, I am quite sure the Members of this House will very soon get some suspicion of it in some manner or other, and Government would be only too glad to have a special enquiry made in such circumstances. But we hope they will not occur.

"I think that is all, Sir, that I need say to the House at present. We will of course consider all that has been said to-day before any orders are issued on the recommendations. But I can assure them now, as they regard it as an important matter, that the irrigation of areas in the districts of Coimbatore, Salem and Trichinopoly shall be carried out, if it is practicable to do so."

4-45 p.m. * Mr. T. ADINARAYANA CHETTIYAR:—" Mr. President, in view of the impatience of the House, I propose to be very brief. When I heard my hon. Colleague Mr. Marudavanam Pillai, his speech reminded me of the old proverb which says 'To him that hath it shall be given and from him hath that not even the little he has shall be taken away.' But fortunately for me, however, I got very good support from friends like Messrs Tulasiram, Koti Reddi and others. So, I hope the case of Salem will be fortified and that Government will give special attention to Salem, because it is almost unimaginable when this stupendous work is located at Salem, that Salem which was buoyed up with hopes should at the last moment find that all the water should be taken away to other places, leaving Salem destitute. Moreover a railway has been constructed and then where is this railway to lead except to the dam and to the barren Sahara desert near it on Salem side. Unless you give irrigation

facilities to Salem, all the advantages of opening the railway at a cost of so many lakhs will be a waste and it would be most uneconomical besides. There is the other question of the alleged technical difficulty which was more than once hinted in the report.

"I may add that the popular opinion is that the case for Salem has not been seriously considered at all. It is believed the land this side is unsurveyed. Where then is the engineering difficulty or the technical difficulty that has been given expression to more than once in the report and that has not been challenged. I mean the statement that Salem has not been surveyed. The trotting out of these alleged difficulties look more like a bogey than a real fact. Salem demands that water will be supplied at least to certain portions of the district.

"The justification for the committee has been dealt with at length by the previous speakers. I am glad to say that expert opinion has not been praised as *vox dei* and that non-official opinion has been shown as being entitled to some weight after all. I may mention that in the British Cabinet, a late War Minister, Lord Haldane, the philosopher whose spiritual home was Germany had no actual war service to his credit. If Fisher can be a very efficient Cabinet Minister for Education and Haldane for War, I do not see any reason why my friend Mr. Saldanha with all his industry and his ability and Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar cannot constitute themselves into a useful committee. They will be wise counsellors though not technical experts, and as men of wisdom they can advise Government from the commonsense point of view. The fact that Government instead of their original resolve to use cement right through have now come down to 20 per cent of surki mortar and 80 per cent cement, thereby bringing down the cost to 13 lakhs according to the hon. the Revenue Member, though a small fact in itself, is proof positive that there is need for such a committee. Therefore I hope, no more will be said about uprooting the tree and that sort of thing and that the Government will hereafter climb down from their untenable position and recognize the realities and allow a small committee to go into the matter now and then and to advise Government, because even Government is not above advice. With these words, I support the motion."

Mr G. Harisarvottama Rao :—"I move that the question be now put."

Mr. K. R. Karant :—"I second it."

* The hon. the President :—"The question is that the question be now put."

The motion was put to the House and carried.

* The hon. the President :—"I now put the amendment of Mr. Ellappa Chettiyar to the vote of the House :—

In the resolution of Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar' in clause 1, insert *the words* "*Salem and Trichinopoly*" *between* "*Coimbatore*" *and* "*district*" *and* substitute "*districts*" *for* "*district*" *and* omit *all the words beginning with* "*and if . . . by the deputation*'."

The amendment was put to the House and carried.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—" I now put the resolution of Mr. Venkataramana Ayyangar as amended by the Council to the vote of the House. The question is that :

' *This Council recommends to the Government that G.O. No.* 2616 *I., dated* 19*th October* 1928, *on the report of the Mettur Project Deputation be reconsidered so far as the following matters are concerned and that—*

(1) *immediate orders be passed for arranging the supply of water for irrigation purposes in Coimbatore, Salem and Trichinopoly districts* ;

(2) *no more money be spent on buildings except in cases where it is absolutely necessary in view of the fact that the cost of the buildings is already very high and that they are all of a temporary nature* ;

(3) *no more money be spent on the road from Erode to Mettur in view of the new rail road being put up from Salem to Mettur* ;

(4) *no filtered water be used for construction purposes and that no more money be spent for this purpose either by way of buildings or otherwise* ;

(5) *all possible attempts be made to cut down the establishment charges at the top and no new offices be created thereafter* ;

(6) *no one employed in the firms supplying machinery or material to the Government be hereafter employed in the Government service* ;

(7) *house-rent be collected from all officers serving in connexion with the project for Government buildings used by them for residence* ;

(8) *the amenities of workmen suggested by the deputation be provided for at once and that arrangements be made to close all arrack and toddy shops at or near Mettur and that necessary establishments be provided to prevent illicit distillation* ;

(9) *the question of fixing water-rates in the Tanjore district and coming to an early understanding with the Tanjore ryots be taken up at once to avoid all possible difficulties in the future* ;

(10) *immediate steps be taken to set up an Advisory Committee of the Council to make occasional inspections and suggestions regarding desirable changes in the working of the scheme*

(11) *the question of using cement for the whole dam or for only portions of it be re-opened and carefully considered over again* ;

(12) *if the Government are not prepared to accept the suggestions of the report to a large extent, a committee of experts chiefly composed of retired Indian D.P.W. officers be appointed to go into all the questions raised in the report and in the resolution.'* "

The resolution as amended was put and declared carried.

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Mr. S. N. Dorai Raja demanded a poll and the House divided thus :—

Ayes :

1. Mr. A. B. Shetty.
2. ,, J. Kuppuswami.
3. Subadar-Major S. A. Nanjappah Bahadur.
4. Mr. T. M. Narayanaswami Pillai.
5. ,, N. Siva Raj.
6. ,, M. V. Gangadhara Siva.
7. ,, V. I. Muniswami Pillai
8. ,, S. Subrahmanya Moopanar.
9. ,, S. V. Vanavudaiya Gounder.
10. ,, S. Venkiah.
11. ,, Syed Ibrahim Sahib.
12. The Zamindar of Singampatti.
13. Khan Bahadur P. Khalif-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur.
14. Mr. A. S. Sahajananda Swami.
15. ,, V. Ramjee Rao.
16. ,, Sami Venkatachalam Chetti.
17. ,, S. Satyamurti.
18. ,, C. V. Venkataramana Ayyangar.
19. ,, T. Adinarayana Chettiyar.
20. ,, P. Anjaneyulu.
21. ,, J. A. Saldanha.
22. ,, Abdul Hamid Khan.
23. ,, C. S. Govindaraja Mudaliyar.
24. ,, G. Harisarvottama Rao.
25. ,, C. N. Muthuranga Mudaliyar.
26. ,, K. V. R. Swami.
27. ,, K. P. V. S. Muhammad Meera Ravuttar.
28. ,, D. Narayana Raju.
29. Mr K. Uppi Sahib.
30. ,, K. R. Karant.
31. ,, A. Parasurama Rao.
32. ,, Basheer Ahmad Sayeed Sahib.
33. ,, P. Bhaktavatsulu Nayudu.
34. Sriman Biswanath Das Mahasayo.
35. Mr. A. Kaleswara Rao.
36. ,, K. Koti Reddi.
37. ,, K. V. Krishnaswami Nayakar.
38. ,, C. Venkatarangam Nayudu.
39. Diwan Bahadur R. N. Arogyaswami Mudaliyar.
40. Mr. Ramanath Goenka.
41. ,, T. C. Srinivasa Ayyangar.
42. ,, K. R. Venkatarama Ayyar.
43. ,, K. P. Raman Menon.
44. ,, B. Ramachandra Reddi.
45. Rao Bahadur C. S. Ratnasabapathi Mudaliyar.
46. The Raja of Panagal.
47. Rao Bahadur Sir A. P. Patro.
48. Diwan Bahadur P. C. Ethirajulu Nayudu.
49. Mr. P. T. Rajan.
50. ,, T. K. Chidambaranatha Mudaliyar.
51. ,, Khadir Mohidin Sahib.
52. Rao Bahadur K. Sitarama Reddiyar.
53. ,, B. Muniswami Nayudu.
54. Mr. K. Sarabha Reddi.
55. The Kumara Raja of Venkatagiri.

Noes :

1. The hon. Sir Norman Marjoribanks.
2. ,, Khan Bahadur Sir Muhammad Usman Sahib Bahadur.
3. ,, Mr. T. E. Moir.
4. ,, Diwan Bahadur M. Krishnan Nayar.
5. Rao Bahadur C. V. Anantakrishna Ayyar.
6. Khan Bahadur Muhammad Bazl-ul-lah Sahib Bahadur.
7. Mr. H. A. Watson.
8. ,, C. A. Souter.
9. ,, S. H. Slater.
10. Mr. A. McG. C. Tampoe.
11. ,, C. W. E. Cotton
12. ,, Syed Tajudin Sahib.
13. ,, J. Bheemayya
14. ,, R. Foulkes.
15. ,, Mahmud Schamnad Sahib
16. ,, K. Krishnan
17. Rao Sahib R. Srinivasan.
18. Rajkumar S. N. Dorai Raja.
19. Mr. R. J. C. Robertson.
20. ,, K. S. Sivasubrahmanya Ayyar.

Neutral ;

1. The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar.
2. ,, ,, S. Muthiah Mudaliyar.
3. ,, Dr. P. Subbarayan.
4. Mr. V. Ch. John
5. ,, M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar.
6. ,, Moopil Nayar of Kavalappara.
7. Rao Sahib L. C. Guruswami.
8. The Zamindar of Kallikota.
9. The Zamindar of Seithur.
10. Mr. C. Marudavanam Pillai.
11. Khan Bahadur S. K. Syed Abdul Razack Sahib Bahadur.

Ayes 55. Noes 20. Neutral 11.

The resolution as amended was carried.

The hon. the PRESIDENT :—"The Council will now adjourn and re-assemble on the 28th January 1929."

R. V. KRISHNA AYYAR,
Secretary to the Legislative Council.